BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

BC Stats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 08-42 October 17, 2008

- **Motor vehicle sales down 4.6% in August**
- **Sales of BC-made manufactured goods fell 2.1% in August**
- **Visitor entries drop 4.1% in July**

The Economy

- **British Columbian dealerships sold 14,210 new motor vehicles (*seasonally adjusted*) in August, off 4.6% from July.** This is the third consecutive monthly decline in sales and the fifth recorded drop in 2008. While the decline in sales for trucks (which includes van, minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks as well as buses) was significant (-1.4%), the fall in motor vehicle sales can largely be attributed to flagging sales of passenger cars (-5.3%). This was particularly the case for North American-built cars for which sales plunged 8.7% in the past month.

  Motor vehicle sales nationwide did not fare much better as sales were also down for the third straight month (-2.3%) in August. Similarly, weaker sales of passenger cars were the main culprit as truck sales remained virtually unchanged. Nova Scotia (-4.8%) saw motor vehicle sales fall the most, while dealerships in both Newfoundland and Labrador (+0.8%) and Saskatchewan (+1.1%) had an increase in sales.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada and BC Stats

- **Manufacturers in British Columbia saw sales drop $71 million (-2.1%) in August after making weak gains (+0.2%) in the previous month.** Shipments from paper manufacturers (-9.0%) accounted for more than half of the pull-back in total manufacturing sales, while much of the rest of the decline can be attributed to a downturn in sales from manufacturers of food products (-4.1%), fabricated metals (-3.7%), non-metallic minerals (-4.1%) and wood products (-0.8%).

  Nationally, after four consecutive months of increases, manufacturers experienced a sharp reduction in sales (-3.7%) in August. Weak prices and unplanned slowdowns in production resulted in softer sales among petroleum and coal producers (-7.7%) which contributed to about one-third of the drop in shipments. Eight provinces saw manufacturing sales fall in August with downturns in Ontario (-3.1%) and Quebec (-2.9%) accounting for the lion's share of the decline in the national totals. Saskatchewan (+5.7%) and Manitoba (+1.0%) were the only provinces to see sales rise during the month. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Investment in non-residential building construction in BC amounted to $1.4 billion in the third quarter of 2008, off slightly (-0.3%) from the second quarter.** This decline in investment in non-residential construction was entirely due to a 1.9% drop in institutional spending, particularly with respect to health care facilities as these projects, begun in 2006 and 2007, are nearing completion. Taking into account the higher labour and material costs of construction, total investment in non-residential construction measured in 2002 constant dollars was down 3.3%.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

Visitor Entries

- **The number of visitors to Canada via British Columbia declined for the sixth consecutive month, falling 4.1% (*seasonally adjusted*) in July.** The slide in entries was due mainly to a drop (-8.7%) in the number of Americans electing to stay overnight. Same day travel from the US also dipped lower (-0.3%). Total entries from overseas countries inched higher in July (+0.9%) with much of the increase coming from "other" countries (+3.0%) which includes Oceania as well as North America (excluding the US) and South America. The number of visitors from Asia and Europe remained virtually unchanged from the previous month. *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

Report BC Climbing 'Int'l Traveller Destination' Ladder

Did you know...

As of August 2008, campaign spending by the US's two major candidates has topped $834 million with two month still to go! Spending is expected to reach a total of $3 billion by the time Americans go to the polls on the 4th of November. *Data Source: CanWest News Agency*

Election 2008

- **Preliminary estimates by Elections Canada, put voter turnout in British Columbia for the 40th General Election at 61.0%, down 2.7 percentage points from the previous federal election held in 2006.** Over the past two decades, the proportion of eligible voters that actually cast a ballot during a general election has fallen from 78.7% in 1988 to the current low of 61.0%.

  Nationally, voter turnout was even lower with initial figures suggesting that only 59.1% of eligible electors took time to have their say, a historic low in Canadian politics. Among the provinces, turnout was lowest in Newfoundland and Labrador (48.1%) and Alberta (52.9%) and highest in New Brunswick (62.8%) and Prince Edward Island (69.5%). Incidentally, Canada's highest ever voter turnout was recorded during the 24th General Election of 1958 where fully 79.4% of the electorate went to the polls. *Data Source: Elections Canada*

Gaming

- **In British Columbia, during the fifteen years between 1992 and 2007, net revenues from government-operated lotteries, video lottery terminals (VLTs), casinos and slot machines (those not in casinos) increased from $403 million to $1.9 billion.** As a share of total provincial revenue, government-run gambling more than doubled, rising from 2.2% in 1992 to 4.5% in 2005. On a per capita basis for those aged 18 years and over, this equates to an increase in average gambling revenue from $153 per person in 1992 to $545 per person fifteen years later.

  In terms of household spending, 70% of British Columbians reported having taken part in at least one type of gambling activity in 2006. This was ninth lowest among the provinces with only Manitobans recording a smaller share (69%). On the other hand, actual household spending on gambling in BC was the highest in the country with an average household expenditure of $605 compared with a national average of $493.

  Data Source: Source: SC, Cat. # 75-001-X

The Nation

- **After increasing in each of the three previous months, Canada's Index of Consumer Confidence plummeted 11.9 point to 73.9 (2002=100) in October, marking the lowest level for the index since the latter part of 1982 when Canada's economy was in the midst of a recession.** Compared to September, consumers were clearly less optimistic about their financial situation. When questioned about their financial health, only 16.6% responded that it was better than it was six months earlier, a drop of 4.7 points. What is more, only 23.7% indicated that they believed their financial situation would improve over the next six months, a decrease of 3.6 percentage points. Conversely, 17.2% of respondents answered that their financial health had worsened over the past six months, a 2.5 point increase, and 17.2% felt that their financial position would deteriorate over the next six months, a 4.3 point increase since September.

  Regionally, consumer confidence levels have fallen across the country. In Ontario, the index level dropped to 64.9 in October from 84.5 a month earlier, the largest month-to-month decrease recorded in that province. British Columbia experienced a 12.5 point drop while Atlantic Canada (–4.9 percentage points) and the Prairies (–6.1 percentage points) were somewhat less pessimistic. *Data Source: Conference Board of Canada*

- **Canada's trade deficit in culture goods (books, CDs, films, paintings, etc.) widened to nearly $2.0 billion in 2007, as exports of culture goods declined for the fourth consecutive year.** Shrinking exports (–5.6% to $2.0 billion) of cultural goods coupled with a simultaneous decline in imports (–1.2% to $4.0 billion) from around the world caused the expanded deficit.

  The United States continued to be the dominant marketplace, accounting for 90% of Canada's culture goods exports, and 75% of imports. Other top trading partners (imports plus exports) in culture goods in 2006 included China, France and the United Kingdom. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Infoline *Issue: 08-42*
October 17, 2008

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

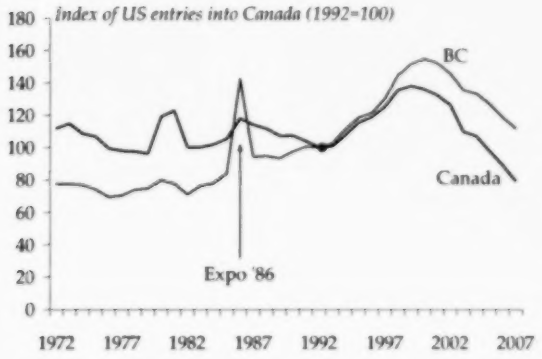
Contact: Werner Gründlingh
250 387-0377
Originally published in
Tourism Sector Monitor Issue 08-08

British Columbia is Climbing the 'International Traveller Destination' Ladder

International visitor entries are on the up

US entries into Canada have steadily lost ground and are currently at an all-time low (20% below that of 1992). Contrastingly, international visitor entries are currently rising and are now 40% higher in Canada and almost doubled in BC compared to 1992.

US entries are going down...



Data source: Statistics Canada

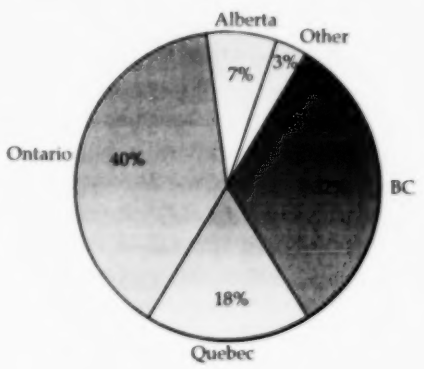
...while overseas entries are climbing

Data source: Statistics Canada

Almost one-third of international visitors to Canada enter via BC

Slightly more than 1.5 million visitors entered Canada via BC in 2007—almost one-third of the total entries into Canada (4,678,912 persons). The only other province that supersedes BC in its traveller entries is Ontario, which receives almost 40% (or 1,832,625 persons).

BC international entries is second only to those received by Ontario



Data source: Statistics Canada

The major continental contributors to this BC influx included Asia (with 46% or 699,257 persons), Europe (with 34% or 519,040 persons) and Oceania and other islands—mostly consisting of Australia—(with 12% or 175,390 persons), which together make up over 90% of international entries. Individual countries with noteworthy representations include the UK (with 16.5% or 250,338 persons), Japan (with 12.8% or 194,177 persons) and Australia (with 9.7% or 146,264 persons).

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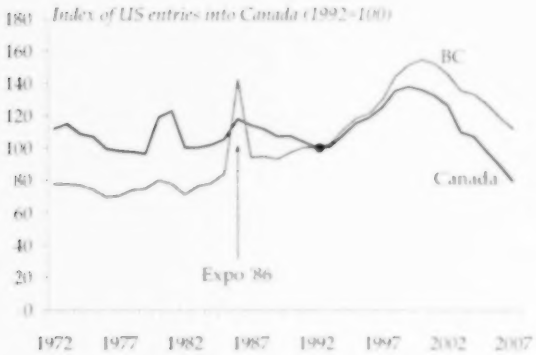

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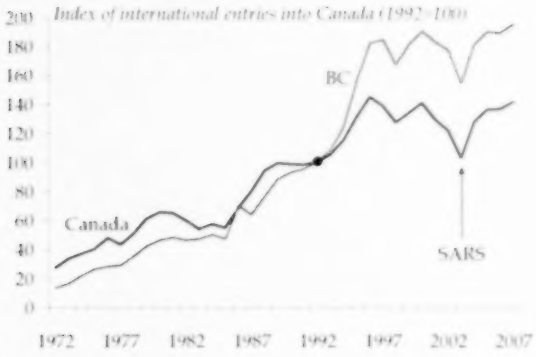

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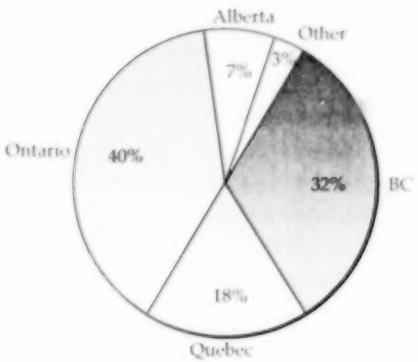

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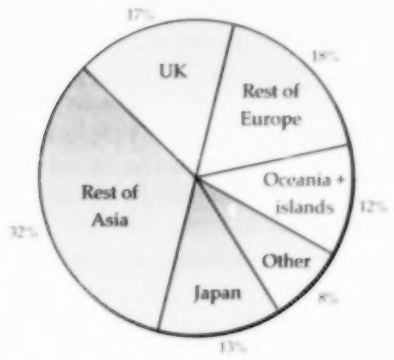
Asian entries into BC are much greater than entries from other countries



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However, changes in traveller entries for some provinces have been quite dramatic in the past.

The provincial Winners and Losers

During the 1970s, BC's share of international visitor entries was roughly 14%. Over the last three decades, this figure has more than doubled (32%), overtaking Quebec (currently at 18%). Additionally, although Ontario is still ranked highest, it has steadily lost ground (down from around 56% in the 1970s) in the wake of BC's ever-increasing Canadian share. While Ontario still receives roughly the same number of international visitors each year, visitors to BC have doubled.

International entries into Canada via BC are climbing

Data source: Statistics Canada

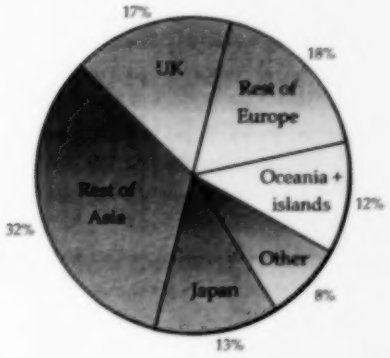
The key lies with Asia

In an almost uncanny fashion, Asian entries into BC have shown very opposite trends to that of European entries. Each of these continents has shown around 20% change in its visitor entries over the last three decades – the one's gain being the other's loss. Since 1992, the Asian market share held by BC has almost doubled. Consequently, Asian visitors now constitute the largest portion of overseas travellers into Canada via BC.

International visitors to BC from Asian countries are soaring

Data source: Statistics Canada

Asian entries into BC are much greater than entries from other countries



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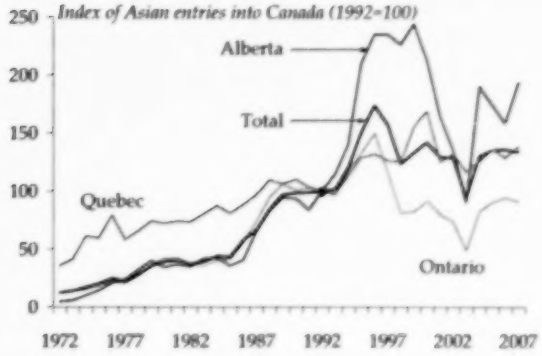
Other provinces also show dramatic fluctuations in Asian visitors



Data source: Statistics Canada

Of this eastern influx, the most noticeable increase is from South Korea, China and Taiwan. South Korean visitor entries into Canada via BC have increased more than twelve fold since 1990, while Chinese visitors recorded an almost ten fold increase, followed by a 35% boost in Taiwanese visitors.

Geographically speaking, BC is the nearest point of entry for Asian visitors. This, combined with the rising cost of international transportation, may be a reason why so many Asian visitors prefer BC over Ontario, or any other province for that matter. It may also be the case that Asian visitors choose BC merely as a port of entry into Canada, then further their journey to other provinces via domestic means of transportation. Alternatively, the tourism product that BC offers may simply be attracting a larger proportion of the Canadian market.

Statistics Canada's Workshop Series

Call for our workshop calendar!

Estimating Economic Impact

This one day workshop will teach participants about our Input-Output models. The Input-Output models are generally used to simulate the economic impact of an expenditure on a given basket of goods or services or the output of a specific industry. The simulation results from a shock to an Input-Output model show the direct and indirect impacts, which industries benefit the most, the number of jobs created, rough estimates of indirect taxes and subsidies generated... etc.

This course will be taught by Fabienne Leclerc, Senior Analyst, Input-Output Division Ottawa. Fabienne is the Unit Head of the Dissemination and Marketing section, and she is familiar with the construction and uses of the Input-Output Model.

VANCOUVER

November 12, 2008
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

6th Floor Boardroom
Statistics Canada
300 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC

Refreshments will be served throughout the day.

Workshop Topics include:

- Overview of the Input-Output Accounts
- Structure of Input Output tables
- Building the IO tables - a case study
- Classifications/Input-Output Framework
- I/O Models
- Demonstration with a fictive example
- Mathematical Model
- Multipliers and examples
- Sample simulations
- Use of template to specify Model shocks

Register early as space is limited

Fee is $300 + GST

Early registration: $275 + GST (at least 3 weeks prior)

Learn from the Experts!!

FT

REGISTRATION

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Organization: _____

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Return form with payment to:

Workshop Registrar
Statistics Canada
Suite 600, 300 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 6C7
Tel: (604) 666-1851
Fax: (604) 666-6680
Toll Free Fax: (877) 287-4369

Please make Cheque and Money Orders payable to '**Receiver General of Canada**'

Refund Policy—Registrations are guaranteed once payment is received. Fees will be refunded, less $75 administration charge, if written notice is received at least 3 business days prior to the workshop. Substitutions are permitted at any time.

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Aussi disponible en français.

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Statistics Canada's Survey Skills Workshops

Call for our workshop calendar!

Developing Satisfaction Surveys

This workshop teaches the fundamentals of designing and implementing an effective satisfaction survey. The course material will assist researchers in producing respondent friendly questionnaires that result in useful and accurate survey data. The course will also help to provide an understanding of the importance of client and employee satisfaction in strategic decision making and business planning. The unique aspects of this type of survey enable you to determine your client's service expectations and their perceptions of your organizations performance.

VICTORIA

November 12-13, 2008
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Hotel Grand Pacific,
463 Belleville Street.
Victoria, BC

Refreshments will be served throughout

Workshop Topics include:

Survey Planning

- Performance measures
- Client satisfaction vs. employee satisfaction
- Fundamentals of collecting data and maximizing response

Questionnaires

- Question structure; open and closed questions
- Rating scales
- Questionnaire design; wording, sequencing and layout

Sampling Methods

- Probability vs. non-probability sampling
- Sample types and exit surveys
- The factors affecting sample size

Processing and Analysis

- The "drivers" of satisfaction
- Summarizing, graphing and presenting survey findings

Register early as space is limited

Fee is $550 + GST

Early registration: $499 + GST (at least 3 weeks prior)

Learn from the Survey Experts!!

FT

REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

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Visa__ M/C__ Amex__ Cheque__ Amount $ (incl. GST):_____

Card No: _____

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Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

Infoline

October 17, 2008
Issue 08–42

Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jul 1/08	% change on one year ago
BC	4,381.6	1.7
Canada	33,311.4	1.2
GDP and INCOME (Revised Apr 28)		
(BC - at market prices)	2007	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	190,214	5.5
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	163,200	3.1
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita)*	37,258	1.7
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	24,728	3.0
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Aug	3,314	-2.1
Merchandise Exports - Aug	2,903	3.4
Retail Sales - Jul	4,804	-0.8
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Aug 2008)	one year ago	% change
BC	3.3	1.9
Vancouver	3.5	2.1
Victoria	2.9	1.4
Canada	3.5	2.4
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Sep '08	% change on prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,431	0.1
Employed - BC	2,319	-0.2
Unemployed - BC	112	7.2
		Aug '08
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	4.6	4.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	6.1	6.1
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Oct 15/08	Oct 17/07
Prime Business Rate	4.25	6.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	6.35	7.25
- 5 year	7.20	7.44
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Oct 15/08	Oct 17/07
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.1802	0.9737
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.8418	1.0250
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Sep '08	% change on one year ago
BC	790.43	4.7
Canada	796.96	4.0

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

2008 High Technology Input Indicators

The 2008 edition of the Input Indicators of the British Columbia High Technology Sector is now available. This report looks at the inputs to high tech and can be considered a companion report to the Profile of the BC High Technology sector, which examines the sector's outputs.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/hi_tech.asp

Community Fact Sheets

A major reworking of this series has the inclusion of 2006 Census results alongside the 2001 Census figures. This is our only small area product that includes two census points for all characteristics displayed. We have also added a count of the number of business establishments, by size, and a time series based on municipal house valuations and taxes. To incorporate these improvements, each of the 184 pdf files jumps from two to three pages.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/dd/facsheet/facsheet.asp

Now Available: High Tech Profile

The 2008 edition of the Profile of the British Columbia High Technology Sector is now available.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/hi_tech.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- Exports, August 2008

Next week

- Tourism Sector Monitor, September 2008
- Consumer Price Index, September 2008

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